

## Chapter 24: Pre-Game Coin Flips Day 4 Evening

The locals' car pool vehicle follows the same route as it did yesterday. Hamza is dropped at his apartment. The three ladies wave goodbye and continue to the Pirate Restaurant. They are greeted at the door by the maître d' speaking Gheg Albanian dialect. The maître d' is the owner and father of Marsha's best girl friend from University of Montenegro at Ulcinj. Marsha is greeted with a kiss on the cheek from the maître d' wife, Dunja, who then leads the ladies towards a table in the Sun Promenade Room.

It is still early so the supper crowd has not yet poured arrived. There are a couple of older couples, two young guys, and a beautiful Westward view of the Adriatic with the Sun beginning to swell as it nears the horizon.

As the ladies are shown their table, they hear "Ciao Bella" from one of the two young men.

Giving a demurring Marsha quickly analyzes the new faces as she takes a seat at her table.

Rising from his table Randy approaches the ladies and says in Italian, "Per favore, scusa amico mio. È un americano pazzo. <Italian: Please excuse my friend. He is a crazy American>"

Interested Sofia says in heavily accented English. "You are no better. You are an American as well."

"Yes. How did you know?"

"The shoes. Only Americans wear New Balance running shoes to supper," answers Sofia as the ladies laugh.

Faking chagrin, Randy bows starts to turn as if to return to his table. Turning back around he says, "Let me make amends. I work for a California electronics startup company. We were introducing a couple of new products at the Roma Tecnologia Gayla last week. I will be right back."

The ladies continue their conversation. They begin to scan tonight's menu as Randy retrieves three digital devices. He returns to the ladies table.

"Now being an American we have have strange tax laws. If Joe and I were to join you ladies and present you with samples of our product, we would be able to write-off your meal and our meal as a business expense."

"What do you mean by write-off?" asks Sara.

"Charge our meal to our expense statements that we submit to our company in Sunnyvale, California."

"So all we have to do is listen to you, eat, and drink," clarifies Sofia. "Then we leave by ourselves. We have work that starts rather early in the morning."

“Perfect,” says Joe as he pulls up chairs for the young men and signals the waiter to move the place setting and the bill to their bill in this new arrangement. “I thought that fashion models did not go into work until Noon.”

“Stronzo <Italian: not so nice a noun>” declares Marsha and the ladies laugh.

“Joe, she has your number,” announces Randy. “She just called you a bull slinger.” As the young men join the laughter.

“Let’s order,” suggest Randy as the laughter abates. “Then while we wait can give you the presentation.”

“These ladies are definitely not fashion models the way they have gouged the menu,” notes Randy mentally. “It’s not my dime any way.”

Once the waiter leaves with the supper order, Randy starts his presentation.

“Let me present each of you with ‘Daisy.’ Reaching into his messenger bag he extract sseveral white boxes about three inches by three inches by four. He places one in front of each of the ladies as well as Joe.

“Go ahead and open the box. Inside you will find your own Daisy. Your Daisy. will connect to the WiFi. Once connected to the WiFi it will communicate with the nearest World Clock, it will also connect to weather, news services, stock exchanges, and many more sites . It is a personal answering service that can be trained to order from restaurants, make hotel reservations, and many more tasks. The best part is that it will accept verbal inputs as well as cell phone and even keyboard. It is your personal hub to the universe.

“All you have to do is press the start button and follow Daisy's instructions to connect to your WiFi. The user manual was design to lead an eight year old through the setup and many of the features.

“Where do you ladies work?”

“We are contract employees of Omni Software,” answers Sofia. “Sara and I help a colleague provide Quality Assurance Testing of the software. We graduated from University of Montenegro at Ulcinj at the same time. Marsha is on hiatus from the university for a while. The Omni money was so good it was time to take a break. Plus I needed a roommate. In additin we receive a discounted supper here at the Pirate. We are eye candy as well as Marsha being close family friends with the owner.”

“Sounds like a deal,” responds Randy. “We gave plenty of the Daisies away. But we can always use more penetration in new regions. I have these four plus eight more in my bag if you think your fellow employees would like to try them. Each of these comes with a survey that will periodically ask how you are using them like in the kitchen, at your desk at the office, in conference rooms. It would be helpful if you took candid pictures of how they are being used. Please don’t include people or proprietary information. We do not need any lawsuits this early in our sales campaign.”

“Here comes the meal, Randy,” observes Joe. “Time to kill your business spiel. I wonder were Ron is. He was suppose to be here by now.”

“What does business spiel mean,” asks Sofia.

“It means I have talked too much business for too long,” laughs Randy.

“Who is Ron?” asks Sarah.

“Ron is one of our developer who has been on the phone to Sunnyvale for the last couple of hours working a problem. He’s almost an hour late. If he does not show, what would be a good take-out meal. He loves seafood? But let’s eat now that the meal is arriving.”

The five young people begin the meal and light social conversation. About ten minutes into the meal Ron makes his appearance. He joins the party and orders based on Marsha suggestion. The diners complete the main meal about an hour and a half later.

Over desert and coffee Randy continues his business spiel, “When you are ready to send us some pictures you can load them to your Daisy and tell it to send them the SurfNcrew\_Hut. If you need help with Daisy or its features call requesting SurfNcrew\_Help.”

Post supper conversation continues for about another hour. Then Randy checks his watch and indicates that it is time for the the SurfNcrew guys to depart. The ladies readily agree to rendezvous here at the Pirate for supper and conversation tomorrow evening. Randy, Joe, and Ron depart.

Sofia says, “The bus leaves in two minutes. Gather your Daisies and go.”

As they ladies car pool vehicle makes the homeward drive, they discuss who gets what guy and why. Sarah is dropped at her apartment. The Sofia and Marsha continue to their apartment.

While the meet and greet was underway at the Pirate Restaurant, Brian and Ron worked Hamza. Brian made the actual contact while Ron stayed in the shadows until Brian gave the “no-back-up required” signal. At that point Brian had been granted admittance to Hamza apartment and had suggested that a career opportunity awaited Hamza in the world of video game development. Hamza accepted Brian’s invitation to supper at the Restaurant of Hamza’s choice as long as it was within walking distance.

As Hamza and Brian walk to the restaurant, Ron follows at a discrete distance. Hamza and Brian enter the Alfa Restaurant and are seated after a brief delay. The delay is largely due Brian’s request for a remote corner so business can be discussed. They scan the menu and place their orders with the waiter.

At that junction, Brian opens, “Would you be interested in a career as a video game developer for Gest-Werks Video Games in Cary, NC?”

“Is this for real?” questions Hamza.

“It is very real and very short fused,” cautions Brian. “Here is the deal. We will offer you a mid-level video games developer position. The company has been tracking your video game project development for some time now. They would like to interview you in Cary as soon as possible, like tomorrow. Here is a fifty thousand dollar US check drawn on the Wells Fargo bank account. It is yours for three weeks of your service.

“We have worked with the US embassy to provide you appropriate travel and work documentation for this three week working-vacation. If you like it and the company executives are

satisfied you will be given a permanent position and green card status. If you don't you, keep the money and we provide you with a return ticket at the Montenegro departure airport. Plus we pay the next four months rent on your apartment and utilities. To maintain your contract position here just call-in and tell them you have been tested and found to be COVID positive. As such you have been confined in isolation for at least four weeks.

"If you leave tonight, in the next three hours you will receive an extra ten thousand dollars US. If you leave in the morning you receive the fifty thousand dollars but no bonus. After that you lose ten thousand dollars for each day you delay.

"I can have a driver and an assistant driver at the door to your apartment in ten minutes after you sign the contract."

"Questions?"

"Is this legal?"

"It is very legal, real, and rewarding to you. Let's wait through supper before you provide me a decision."

Hamza finishes his meal much quicker than Brian had anticipated.

Putting down his fork Hamza announces, "I am ready to go to America to become the Master Video Game Developer for Gest-Werks. Let's do this." Pulling out his cell phone he simply texts his supervisor and copies Sofia that he has test COVID positive and is now in isolation for the next few weeks. He request a come-back copy indicating that the message was read.

While he was doing that Brian alters the driving team for taking Hamza to the Tivat airport. He also notifies Mark that Hamza has flipped and will be leaving tonight. He then notifies his Embassy section to bring the completed documents and airline ticket for Hamza venture to Cary, NC to the airport.

Wrapping-up the package tightly, Brian walks Hamza back to his apartment. Being a bachelor and a video game devotee there is not much to do in the way of packing. Shortly after Hamza starts packing, the driver and assistant arrive to help move things along expeditiously. They have brought a couple of aviator kit bags to assist the packing effort. Brian tells Hamza that if he finds he left something in the apartment, just call the number given on Brian's business card. He will insure the items are shipped.

Two hours later Hamza is on his way Westward to the US. Chatting it up with his friendly handlers and enjoying first class comps all the way to Raleigh-Durham International Airport, DorsalFin operatives report that Hamza claims he was instrumental in setting-up and rehearsing Ulcinj participants for the last week. Trawler's deduction that the main conference room is the site for the meeting is confirmed by Hamza interview.

Two days later Hamza will meet the a Gest-Werks Video Game executive interview team. He will be hired at a starting salary annual of \$110,000. Gest-Werks will receive a payment of \$450, 000 upon signing and another \$750,000 five years later if Hamza is still employed as a video game developer.

The DorsalFin facilitator sends confirmation to Mark in Ulcinj reporting that the main conference room deduction is correct and the surveillance operation should continue as planned.

Brian informs Mark that Randy and associates have salted the Operations Building ladies with twelve Daisies. After separating last night Randy was able to confirm that all Daisies were all active and located by GPS using the Pirate Restaurant's WiFi server. Randy reports the supper company was very pleasant and receptive as well.